

24 September 1953

FIRST ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE IAC OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

September 1952 - August 1953

I. AUTHORITY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The Scientific Estimates Committee was established on 14 August 1952 by DCID 3/4, pursuant to the provisions of NSCID No. 3 and the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Survey Existing Arrangements Relating to Production of Scientific and Technical Intelligence. (IAC-M-79, 14 August 1952).

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

DCID 3/4 provides that the permanent membership of the SEC shall consist of representatives from CIA; the Joint Staff; the Department of State, Army, Navy, and Air Force; and the Atomic Energy Commission. The AEC member has not participated in the activities of the SEC and has indicated that such participation would be limited to matters of direct interest to the AEC. (Note: Atomic energy intelligence was assigned to the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee by DCID 3/4.)

The SEC has no subcommittee structure; however, ten ad hoc working groups were established during the past year.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

DCID 3/4 assigns the SEC three responsibilities, and in addition recommends "that the SEC concentrate on the integration of intelligence opinion (other than that for which JAEIC is responsible) as and when required for the purposes of national intelligence, and only incidentally assist in the coordination of production of other intelligence in scientific and technical fields."

The accomplishments of the SEC under each of its responsibilities are summarized below:

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A. The SEC shall "integrate scientific and technical intelligence as and when required, for the production of national intelligence."

1. The SEC has integrated scientific and technical contributions to eleven National Intelligence Estimates and one Special Estimate. A tabulation of these contributions is at Tab A.

2. In the course of integrating the contributions to NIEs 65 and 90, three ad hoc working groups were established to resolve conflicting conclusions in the fields of electronics, guided missiles, and biological warfare. An additional ad hoc working group was established to prepare the initial draft of the SEC contribution to SE-38.

3. In addition to normal dissemination to the SEC members and to O/NE, detailed SEC contributions to NIE-65 and SE-38 were forwarded to technical organizations in the Department of Defense. (See Tab A.)

B. The SEC shall "coordinate the production of Chapter VII of the NIS."

1. The SEC has coordinated the production of twenty-nine sections of Chapter VII of the NIS, which are listed at Tab B. This total includes a backlog of fifteen sections from the FY-1952 program and fourteen sections of the FY-1953 program. The remaining seven sections of FY-1953 program (NIS-39, China) are scheduled for completion during October 1953. In the course of coordinating the production of Chapter VII, four ad hoc working groups were established to eliminate substantive differences in the drafts of some Sections of NIS-3, France, and NIS-15, Switzerland.

2. The SEC has proposed a three-year program (through FY-1956) for production of NIS Chapter VII which the NIS Committee has tentatively approved. This advanced programming will provide time for collection in response to specific collection requirements.

3. An additional ad hoc working group was established to review and recommend changes in the organization and coverage of Chapter VII. However, consideration of major changes has been deferred until completion of the survey to be conducted by the NIS Committee on user reaction to the NIS. The SEC has

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recommended a series of questions on Chapter VII for inclusion in the NIS Committee's questionnaire.

4. Responsibility for production of the various Sections of Chapter VII has been allocated among SEC agencies in conformity with the allocation of areas of primary production responsibility in DCID 3/4.

C. The SEC shall "stimulate and guide interagency liaison and such working level conferences as may be appropriate."

1. The SEC has agreed to maintain surveillance of the status of Biological Warfare Intelligence and that the JTIS BW Working Group (with its CIA liaison representative) should be used to insure the integration of CIA's activities in the basic sciences with those of the Services in their area of responsibility.

2. The SEC has been used as a liaison mechanism to coordinate requests for studies and briefings by the member agencies.

3. In addition to the nine ad hoc working groups mentioned in A-2 and B-1 above, the SEC established an ad hoc medical intelligence working group on 1 October 1952 for the purposes of: (a) integrating medical intelligence contributions to NIE-65, (b) temporarily continuing the activities of the former Joint Medical Scientific Intelligence Committee, and (c) preparing terms of reference for a continuing medical intelligence working conference. It is continuing its second function informally although its official existence terminated with the approval of NIE-65 by the IAC.

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

The SEC reviewed all uncompleted projects of the former Scientific Intelligence Committee and has taken the following action:

1. Completed and published on 10 February 1953, The Status of Soviet Development in the Field of Physics.

2. Agreed to continue The Status of the Soviet Metallurgy Program on a periodic basis. The initial report, Soviet Activities and Potential in Powder Metallurgy was published on 27 July 1953.

3. Cancelled as joint projects the following:

- a. The Status of Soviet Chemical Warfare Program (This project was considered to be in the area of production responsibility of the Department of Defense.)
- b. The Status of Soviet Medical Research (This project was considered to be in the area of production responsibility of CIA.)
- c. The Development and Utilization of Science in the Soviet Union (This project will be reconsidered upon completion of two studies now under preparation by CIA/OSI and JTIS, respectively, for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development.)

V. OBJECTIVE FOR THE COMING YEAR

In accordance with DCID 3/4, the SEC will continue to concentrate its attention on the integration of intelligence opinion for the purpose of improving the scientific and technical contributions to national intelligence. To accomplish this objective, the SEC intends to:

A. Endeavor to make improvements in the present mechanism for integrating scientific and technical contributions to national estimates. At present there is no provision for the receipt by the SEC secretariat of scientific and technical contributions prior to the date that all contributions are due in the Office of National Estimates. Thus, the SEC integration process must be carried out on "borrowed time."

B. Conduct independent post-mortems of the scientific and technical portions of important national estimates, particularly those which are periodically revised as well as reviews of important sections of NIS Chapter VII.

C. Publish a periodic inventory of planned and completed scientific and technical intelligence production projects.

D. Conduct substantive surveys in various fields of scientific and technical intelligence for the purpose of identifying critical deficiencies and recommending means of eliminating them.

E. Make extensive use of appropriate specialists, particularly with regard to such important substantive deficiencies as may be revealed by the above post-mortems, reviews, or surveys.

F. Undertake a revision of the organization and scope of NIS, Chapter VII, if the need for revision is indicated by the results of the NIS Committee's survey of user reaction.

G. Make every effort to eliminate delays in the production of Chapter VII and to complete the annual program on schedule.